

28 March 1963

PROBLEM: What elements should constitute the Operations Board and what responsibilities should it be assigned.

DISCUSSION:

1. The past Operations Board consisted of members from units supplying PI's for national production and was chaired by the Operations Officer vice the Executive Director, who was responsible for coordinating production through the various support elements of NPIC. Responsibilities in various matters such as substantive content, PI production and production procedures were never clearly defined as to whether they were the purview of the SIO's or the Assistant for Operations with the result that operations have tended to drift especially as regards immediate reporting and MCI format.

2. The Operations Board proposed for the future consists of the following: Chairman - Assistant for Operations, NPIC; DIA and CIA Detachment Commanders; PAD, TID, PD, CSD, and PSD. This group will handle all NPIC production problems. This lineup places four support divisions of NPIC who receive their production guidance from the Assistant for Operations in a voting position. It provides a vote to a DIA Detachment explicitly removed from any dealings in national PI production or with national PI's. It provides a vote for the CIA Detachment which if their PI's are removed permanently to the National Area will not deal with NPIC on national PI production. It further provides a vote for the PAD element, which if DIA led effectively removes any CIA PI voice in the National Production Area. The converse is also true.

3. I feel the presence of support divisions at Operations Board meetings is good. However, they should be there as observers and consultants in the same way that SIO's have observed in the Ad Com in the past. One responsibility of the Assistant for Operations is understood to be to coordinate production through these divisions in a timely fashion. To place them in a voting position on this committee will effectively emasculate the decision-making capability of this most vital Board charged with photo intelligence production for NPIC and further reduce it to a debating group, each division promoting its own pet objectives as to how photo intelligence is to be handled. Instead of streamlining the decision-making machinery from a poorly effective five members to a more effective three, we now propose to increase it to a hopelessly ineffective eight.

4. If support divisions of NPIC are to become members of the Operations Board and exercise voting privileges on the production of photographic intelligence, what then are the responsibilities of the Assistant for Operations? Is it a role of arbitration or coordination? Certainly the production of photo intelligence will not be his responsibility for it is vested in a PAD chief, who will be responsible for not only photo intelligence production but also

all necessary administrative adjuncts to this production to include statistics, priorities, requirements, etc. Further, he will not handle problems between the divisions, as the Executive Director, NPIC, has directed these be handled directly between chiefs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Operations Board be composed of the Chiefs of the DIA (NPIC) element and CIA Detachment, chaired by the Assistant for Operations and with the NPIC supporting divisions as consultants.
2. That the Detachment Commanders be charged with the production of photo intelligence to include procedures, production, etc.
3. That the Assistant for Operations be charged with coordination of production between support elements of NPIC to ensure the orderly flow of finished reports by priority.

ILLEGIB

